Front.

Isaac Taylor del. et sculp.

Front.

Isaac Taylor del. et sculp.

THE DISTREST WIFE,

OR THE

HISTORY

OF

ELIZA WYNDHAM;

RELATED

In a Journey from SALISBURY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
Printed for W. COOKE, in May-Fair,
AND
Sold by J. WILKIE, in St. Paul's Church-yard.

MDCCLXVIII

HARVARD COLLEGE
FEB 9 1914
LIBRARY.
Gift of the
Division of Modern Languages
(2 v. in 1)

TO

Mr. Joſeph Silveſter.

DEAR SIR,

AS Mrs. Wyndham is yet a ſtranger in town, I ſhall eſteem it a favor if you will accept her company, and introduce her to the acquaintance of Mrs. SILVESTER, with whom I am certain ſhe muſt attain every accompliſhment ſhe may at preſent require to make her perfectly amiable.

I am, ſir,

Your ſincere friend

And humble ſervant,

May-Fair, Feb. 13th, 1768.

The AUTHOR.

Advertiſement.

THE following Novel was written for two purpoſes: one—to amuſe the Author in an abſence from his wife — (many a wife would be happy if their huſband's amuſements while abſent were no leſs innocent) -- The other — to inſtruct a daughter, by ſhewing her an example that Innocence and Virtue, however depreſt for a time, ſhall in the end receive its reward.

It

It is now publiſhed for two reaſons likewiſe; one——to convince ſome friends in the Weſt, that the author poſſeſſes more *modeſt aſſurance* than they thought he did, though had they look'd in his face they might have perceived he enjoyed a *quantum ſufficit*——The other---which is more material, is---that he thereby claims a bottle and bird at the expence of a worthy inhabitant of Ilminſter---- an entertainment many an author would be equally glad to enjoy.

If the Reader of this bagatelle finds in it the *utile* happily blended with the *dulci*, the Author's wiſh concerning it will be compleat.

Yet

Yet if the Public can find neither, he ſtill has the ſatisfaction to be certain it will not debauch one moral or corrupt one heart —— and, at the worſt, can be only like a *chip in pottage.*

THE DISTREST WIFE; OR THE HISTORY OF ELIZA WYNDHAM.

AS I am certain whatever affects me can never be indifferent to my dear ——— I cannot help acquainting her with every particular of my late journey—eſpecially as it afforded me ſome moments, as well of the greateſt pleaſure, as of deep concern, and will, I doubt not, afford the ſame to my love.

I left Mr. S——— at Sherborn, and travelled poſt to Saliſbury where I arrived juſt before the machine ſat out, and thought to ſecure myſelf a good ſeat by getting in firſt: but was miſtaken; for two ladies, neither of them much leſs in bulk than the late Mr. Bright of circumferencial memory, poſted themſelves on each ſide of me, and pinned me fairly to the back of the coach; the oppoſite ſide was immediately poſſeſſed by three other paſſengers who did not ſee me get in, and I could only diſcern, by the coachman's dim lanthorn, they were two men and a woman.

Before

Before we had proceeded a hundred yards, we were jolted into a ſomewhat quieter poſſeſſion of our reſpective places; and, in about a quarter of an hour, I fancy, five out of the ſix were aſleep, or at leaſt in a dozing ſituation; for in half that time I was entertained with a concert not much unlike the aſpirations of half a dozen of the females belonging to that *genus* (to uſe Dr. Paul's expreſſion) *of which the boar is the male.* Not a word paſs'd till we got to Whitchurch, where we were to breakfaſt; at the entrance of which we were ſoon rous'd by the jumbling of the coach on the ſtones, which produced a number of yawns, to the detriment almoſt of the drum

of my ears. The gentlemen in the oppoſite corners let down the blinds, but I could not ſee any thing out at either of the windows; for though I ſtrugled hard I could not gain an inch forward, nay indeed, I might with equal eaſe have moved Winſham tower as get from behind them; as their ſhoulders quite met, I could only peep ſtrait forward over them; and none of the company who came in laſt, knew I was there till I got out; the gentlemen declared they had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of it, and the lady proteſted ſhe thought ſhe ſaw ſomething move about like eyes, on the admiſſion of the light, but imagin'd, begging my pardon, it was a favourite

favourite pug-dog, belonging to one of the ladies: this raiſed a laugh, and I could not help joining in it heartily.——

I was extremely glad to find myſelf again upon my legs, and diſengaged from my jammers. My fellow travellers being conducted into a room prepared for our reception to breakfaſt in, I walk'd round the coach, to view the outſide paſſengers; upon which ſurvey, over the ſide of the baſket, ſeeing two little hands, and the head of a child wrapt up in a cloak and a white handkerchief; I was grieved at its ſituation, and immediately ſaid—"Whoſe little one "are you, my dear?"—"Mam-

" ma's, ſir," returned the infant, hardly ſpeaking plain — " Where's " your mamma, my love?"—" Here " ſir," looking downward into the baſket.--While I was thus engaged the coachman had placed a ladder for the woman and child to get down by; but not ſeeing her, he mounted two or three rounds, and immediately cry'd out, —" By God, ſhe's dead!"---" Who's " dead!" I as quickly reply'd, and climbing the ſpokes of the wheels, without waiting an anſwer, jump'd into the baſket at the inſtant the coachman was in at the end, and beheld the moſt affecting object I had ever ſeen; —a woman decently dreſſed, to all appearance, dead;—ſhe ſeemed a-

bout

bout three and twenty;—her face, tho' quite emaciated, had ſtill the remains of an affecting elegance;—on my taking hold of her hand, while the coachman reared her head,—the child, ſtooping, liſp'd out—"Pray don't wake mamma, ſhe'll "cry ſadly if you do."--- Overcome by the tenderneſs of the ſweet prattler, as we had now more help, I immediately let go the mother, and claſping the child to my boſom, got down as well as I could, and conveyed the little one into the kitchen where was a good fire; to which as I approached I was accoſted by an amiable young lady, if one may judge from an open lovely counte-

nance, added to the moſt delicate tenderneſs in taking the infant from me, which ſhe did with an engaging ſmile, ſaying — "Permit me, ſir, "to take charge of this."—I reply'd only by bowing, and deliver'd the ſweet innocent to her, with a ſecret wiſh that ſhe might have twenty of her own, that every one might be an additional pleaſure, while young, and accumulate happineſs on her as they advanced in years.

The unhappy mother was now brought before the fire, by the help of which, by rubbing her temples with ſpirits of hartſhorn, and applying to her noſtrils ſome ſalts, we ſoon perceived the crimſon tide

which

which had long ebb'd, begin again to flow.

In a few minutes (which ſeemed in this ſituation a much longer time) ſhe gradually opened her eyes; and awaking ſeemingly as from a trance, ſhe exclaimed--feebly exclaimed--"Good God!—— where am I, and where's "my Emily!"---"Here, madam," ſaid the young lady, (bringing the child forward) "how do you find "yourſelf?"--- "O madam," returned the fair forlorn, in a voice hardly to be heard, "I thank you "for your kind enquiry, but I was "in hopes, before this time, my "griefs would have been all over, "and I ſhould have been where the

"wicked

" wicked ceaſe from troubling and " the weary are at reſt; but, ſince I " find my wretchedneſs is not yet " compleat, I muſt endeavour to " bear it as long as God pleaſes, and " will, well as I can.---Yes, my Emi- " ly !— my angel !—my little ſweet " one !— my ſoul's fondneſs !—dear " pledge of Wyndham's love !"--- Here a ſudden guſh of tears ſtopt her, and ſhe continued ſometimes gazing at, and weeping over her child, abſorb'd in ſorrow, while the poor little one kept clinging round her mother, intermingling tears and exchanging kiſſes, with every ſilent tho' expreſſive tenderneſs of filial fondneſs and maternal love.

The

The waiter, acquainting us breakfaſt had been ſome time ready, and the horſes were putting too, gave a relief not only to us, but to the party more immediately intereſted; as the little confuſion we made in obeying the ſummons ſeem'd to alleviate the poor woman's anxiety, and who being eas'd by the effuſion of the tears ſhe had ſhed, ſeemed much more compoſed.

The company now returned to the room they had left, to which Mr. Johnſon (a ſea-officer one of the paſſengers) and myſelf, ſupported the dejected Mrs. Wyndham, while the amiable Miſs Jones led the tender Emily.

At

At our entrance we conducted the languid lady to a chair, and Miſs Jones, taking Emily in her lap, a profound ſilence enſued for about a minute, during which I could ſee the tender paſſions agitate Mr. Johnſon in a peculiar manner: the muſcles of his countenance, which one would have thought inflexible, work'd ſtrongly, and the big tear ſtood ready to roll down his ſunburnt cheek, while he ardently gazed on Mrs. Wyndham,---when ſtarting ſuddenly, he turned and obſerving one of my fat companions who had been faſt aſleep from the moment ſhe alighted, and knew nothing of Mrs. Wyndham, giving her a hearty

ſhake,

ſhake, cry'd out,—" Yoho, ſleepers, they've pip'd to breakfaſt!"—when ſhe, awaking, look'd at Mrs. Wyndham, and enquired who ſhe was; being informed, ſaid,——She did not chooſe any outſide paſſengers ſhould breakfaſt with her; that ſhe ſuppoſed ſhe was ſome idle drab, who, with a trumpt up ſtory, endeavoured to impoſe on the humanity of the paſſengers, but ſhe ſhan't on mine.—" She can't, you mean, you " bum-boat brimſtone (interrupted " the honeſt tarr) who are you?---If " I had you aboard, I'd have you " try'd for mutiny, and abuſing your " ſuperiors, you ſtink-pot--What are " you, you old hulk?--neither man or

" woman

" woman, you devil's dam;---may I
" always have the wind in my teeth,
" but I've a great mind to dock you,
" and if you'll lend me a hand, bro-
" ther (turning to me) we will."--The lufty lady immediately getting up, faid ſhe was ſerved right for not having her own carriage, as ſhe had often heard none but "*the canaille*" ever travelled in this manner, and now ſhe found it true, but it ſhould be her fault next time; and inſtantly, with a deal of ſelf-importance, left the room.
—" I'd *kennel* ye, and *keelhaul* ye too,
" if I had ye in a proper place, but,
" howſomever; I'm glad you've ſet
" ſail from this port, and before
" you make another, may you meet
" with

"with a ſtorm, and have neither "rigging, compaſs, or ſea-room, "but founder with all your blub- "ber, and I'll be damn'd if you "don't turn out proviſion enough "for a dozen of ſharks a whole "ſix months cruize.—— Humanity "indeed!"—"Do, ſir," ſaid Mrs. Wyndham, "ſend for the lady, I "would not diſturb any one, and as "I am an outſide paſſenger, do not "deſire but to be uſed as one: had "I known the difference, I would "not have intruded."——"I'll be "damn'd firſt," replied Johnſon,— "cheer up, my heart, let her go, "like a bitch as ſhe is."—

By

By this time tea and coffee was poured out, and Mrs. Wyndham drank a diſh, and eat a morſel of toaſt. The child eat and drank heartily, which I believe more revived the mother than what ſhe took herſelf. After the reckoning had been adjuſted, we advanced to our vehicle, I and Mr. Johnſon again taking charge of Mrs. Wyndham, and the little Emily trotted by the ſide of Miſs Jones, between whom there ſeemed as great a familiarity as tho' they had been acquaintance a long time (I would ſay friends; but as that ſacred title is often perverted to the worſt purpoſe, I chooſe to avoid it, and ſubſtitute the more general term, acquaintance) in its room. The

The door being opened, Johnſon cried out—" Here's the porpus already" (meaning the lady who had left us, and had drank a glaſs of brandy at the bar, to keep the cold out of her ſtomach.) Miſs Jones entered the coach, and placing Emily in one corner gave her aſſiſtance to Mrs. Wyndham, who with Johnſon's and my help was ſoon ſeated; the other paſſengers now crouded in, and I was going to get into the baſket, when Johnſon, catching hold of me, ſaid—" Avaſt haul-
" ing that rope, brother—ſhall it ever
" be ſaid a landſman out-did a ſea-
" man?—no, no, many a hard gale
" I've weathered, and make no
" doubt I ſhall many more; and ſo,

" d'ye ſee, as I'm more able to face " the wind, than any fair weather " Jack of you all, why you go into " the cabin, and I'll take the poor " woman's birth in the ſteerage;"--- ſo ſaying, he was in an inſtant in the baſket, and I finding him ſo peremptory thought I could not do better than take his advice, and accordingly ſtepping into the machine, away we drove; the honeſt Johnſon behind, rapping his ſtick upon the coach, and ſinging, *Hearts of Oak.*

As ſoon as we were ſeated, having the advantage now of coming in laſt, I took place again between the two lady Tunbellies; but, reſolving not to be again in their rear, I maintained

tained my poſt ſome time, and ſoon gained ſo much advantage over them, that their very ſhoulders, which had before given me ſo much annoyance, were now a ſupport to me; being in front, I took Emily between my legs: when looking at my oppoſites, I obſerved Mrs. Wyndham, with her eyes fix'd upon her child, wept much.---Miſs Jones, at the ſame time taking her hand, ſaid---" my dear " madam, what's the matter!——— " come be content, all will yet be " well—I do not deſire to know the " cauſe of your grief, I only wiſh I " could remove it."———

" Oh! madam," returned Mrs. Wyndham, " 'tis gratitude---indeed " 'tis gratitude--now cauſes my tears " to flow——Oh! how can I be " thankfull enough—that that little " ---that to me ſweet wretch!--- is " not now in the cold!---yes, ma'am " ---yes ſir,---I thank you, and may " God reward you!"———.

Here ſhe ſtopt, and leaning her head downwards, Miſs Jones claſp'd her other arm round her neck, and ſupported her on her boſom.

I was afraid the motion of the coach was too much for her, but ſhe ſaid " no."--A pathetic ſilence again enſued.

I would have given any thing to have comforted her, but knew not how; yet could not help ſaying,--- " my dear Mrs. Wyndham, what- " ever your misfortunes have been, " how great ſoever your ſufferings, " how poignant your griefs, yet my " dear woman conſider---- (I cry'd, catching hold of her right hand as Miſs Jones held her left) --- conſider, " that misfortune, as well as proſpe- " rity, are at the diſpoſal of Hea- " ven; and though God, as a father, " may correct, he will not utterly " take away his good providence for " us; his chaſtenings laſt but for a " time, and tho'darkneſs and the ſha- " dow of death encompaſs us about,

" yet he will lift up the light of his
" countenance upon us, he will bleſs
" us; though we are in bondage, he
" will deliver us, and from the ſnare
" of the fowler we ſhall eſcape."

I was ſtopt by Mrs. Wyndham, who, catching her hands from Miſs Jones and me, claſp'd them, lifted her eyes towards Heaven, and in a ſweet tone, reply'd—" If I am deli-
" vered, let me adore his name!—if
" I have eſcap'd, let me praiſe my
" God!"--- then turning to me---
" oh! ſir, I have had many deliver-
" ances, many eſcapes, and yet I am
" now ſo encompaſſed about---I can-
" not---no, 'tis impoſſible!"--- here ſhe pauſed.——

" Nothing,

" Nothing, madam, is impoſſi-
" ble."——

" I know 'tis not (returned ſhe)
" to God, but with man" ——

" Madam" continued I, " we are
" not to ſink under our afflictions,
" and ſay only God help us; we are
" to endeavour, as far as our reaſon
" can aid us, and our ſtrength enable
" us, to take arms againſt a ſiege of
" troubles, and by oppoſing end
" them."——

" Sir " reply'd Mrs. Wyndham,
" I would not willingly either pre-
" ſume on my own ſtrength too far,
" or charge the Almighty --- but
" indeed, ſir, my tale---which had I
" but ſtrength to relate would prove

" that I am one predeſtinated to ſuf-
" fer."——

" Will you, madam, give me one
" inſtance?"——

" Sir my whole life is (ſome few
" moments excepted) one ſeries of
" misfortunes."——

" Will you indulge us with any
" particulars?"——

" The ſtory is too melancholy,
" and yet I willingly would, had I
" ſtrength, and thought it intereſt-
" ing enough not to tire you."——

" Believe me, madam, I do not
" think I ſhould eaſily tire."——

" Well, ſir,---if you'll excuſe my
" want of language and ſome little
" inac-

"inaccuracies---I will, well as I am "able, proceed."——

Here ſhe ſeemed to labour under a great perplexity, till Miſs Jones, kiſſing her hand with energy, and encouraging her with perſuaſive words, and more perſuaſive looks, ſhe began.——

"MY father was deſcended from the Smithſons, of Peltwell in Derbyſhire, and being the youngeſt of four ſons, could only be provided for by a commiſſion in the army; which, as ſoon as he was in poſſeſſion of, he openly profeſſed a regard for my mother, whoſe family (which had ſettled in the neighbourhood) and perſon were unexceptionable

ceptionable in every reſpect but riches; and ſoon, though againſt the conſent of his (too commonly, tho' falſely call'd) friends, married her.——

They lived together happily about twelve months, when the regiment to which my father belonged was ordered to join the army then in Flanders, and the firſt news my mother heard of him was, that he was one among the many who ſo glorioufly fell in the fatal action before Tournay.---

This news was next to an impoſſibility for her to bear, and incumbered as ſhe was with me, then about five months old, I wonder ſhe could

ſupport

ſupport it at all; ſhe wrote to her friends, who made all the intereſt poſſible with my father's family, but in vain —— they could not, or would not, do any thing in our favour."—

Here the poor dear woman, incapable of proceeding in her narration, continued ſilent for ſome time; during which we all were on the tenters of expectation, when, with eyes ſtreaming, and a voice interrupted with ſobs, ſhe continued.——

" Would to God it had not been *our* !——for then I had not been the cauſe of my dear Wyndham's miſery, nor this ſweet innocent —— (kiſſing Emily's little hand, and wetting it with briny dew)--- have expe-

experienced the wretchedneſs, ſhe muſt now ſuffer!"——We endeavoured to aſſuage her grief, and by lenient words (which, though very ſeldom of more worth than ſtraws, yet have that ſtrange aſcendency over the human mind to ſooth its ſorrows and alleviate its griefs) ſhe was ſoon able to proceed.——

"As Mr. Smithſon's family denied their aſſiſtance, my mother's relations, to whom ſhe wrote in the moſt preſſing terms, returned a very endearing anſwer, that they would do the utmoſt in their power for us, and accordingly transferred an annuity of fifteen pounds a year, payable during the life of an elderly perſon, to

my

my mother. This, with the payment of the widow's penſion, which ſhe with much difficulty, and after repeated applications obtained, ſhe found inſufficient to maintain us in London, and therefore formed a plan of retiring into the country, and accordingly returned to Peltwell, her native place; but here, inſtead of enjoying any happineſs, ſhe found her miſery encreaſe.——

She has told me often, when I was very young, and very fond of liſtening to her —— and which I have often ſince had too much reaſon to believe true——that ſhe has ſat for whole days ſo totally loſt to every thing but the contemplation of

my

my father, that ſhe has ſeemed to converſe with him, and fancied he anſwered her; and, if rouſed by any one, would complain —— Why did ye interrupt me? ——he was here then! —— 'tis very hard you could not let him ſtay!——When, ſuddenly recollecting her melancholy ſituation, ſhe would weep terribly, and ſink by degrees again into a ſettled deſpair.——

The phyſicians adviſed exerciſe and company, but theſe produced no good effect; company and converſation was now tireſome, as in her opinion, every company was diſagreeable without his preſence, and every converſation wanted his diſcourſe to enliven it.—— When

When ſhe walked out, every place ſerved to increaſe her ſorrow, as it recalled the happy minutes ſhe had there ſo ſweetly paſſed with her dear huſband, and would lament, applying to her own caſe the tender lines of the good as well as great lord Lyttelton, who then ſo pathetically mourned his lov'd his loſt Lucinda:

Ye tufted groves, ye gently-falling rills,
Ye high o'erſhadowing hills,
Ye lawns gay ſmiling with eternal green,
Oft have you my Smithſon ſeen!
But never ſhall you now behold him more:
Nor will he ere with fond delight
And taſte refin'd, your rural charms explore,
Clos'd are thoſe beauteous eyes in endleſs night:
Thoſe beauteous eyes, where beaming us'd to ſhine
Reaſon's pure light and virtue's ſpark divine:

Indeed,

Indeed, a ſettled melancholy ſeemed to have taken ſo entire a poſſeſſion of her, that the doctors dreaded the moſt fatal conſequence, and propoſed, as the laſt thing they could do, change of air.—Accordingly Wingrove, in Somerſetſhire, was ſoon fixed on, as an uncle of my mother's was vicar of the pariſh, a ſmall living of about ſeventy pounds a year.—The good old gentleman was not long in providing an apartment for our reception in the vicarage houſe, to which, as ſoon as it was compleat, we went, and met with a hearty welcome from my uncle who was truly an embaſſador from God.—

Here my mother's melancholy ſeemed to ſubſide, and by degrees ſhe

came

came to a ſettled calmneſs, but was never ſo happy as when my father was the theme of the diſcourſe.—

We continued in this delightful ſituation about eight years, during which my dear mother and uncle united their efforts to give me an education proper for my ſex; and, not knowing what my future ſituation in life might be, vied with each other who ſhould make me moſt compleat in their reſpective parts.—

But theſe halcyon days were ſoon to end!—here a dark cloud obſcured my morning ſun—for, as my mother and I walked in a wood adjacent to our garden, invited by the cooling ſhade, admiring the wonders of Pro-

vidence in the brute creation, as we call it, and expatiating on the ingratitude of more ſavage man, ſhe ſuddenly complained of a chilline ſs, and going home, ſaid ſhe thought ſhe had got cold, and would go to bed—from which, alas! ſhe never roſe more — Unhappy — moſt unhappy moment for me!—Excuſe me (weeping ſhe cry'd) I can't help it.——O my dear—dear mamma!——never, I hope, ſhall I forget your dying inſtructions."——

Then recovering herſelf, ſhe went on:

" Her diſorder proved a violent fever, which, in four days, put a period to her life: the morning before

ſhe

ſhe expired, as my uncle and I ſtood by her bedſide, ſhe turned her dying eyes to me; and, on my ſtooping down to her, ſaid —— "You "ſee, my love, an expiring mo- "ther——I know 'tis terrible—yet "be not diſtreſs'd.— I feel the hand "of death is on me—hail! welcome "meſſenger! thou ſhalt ſoon waft "me to regions of happineſs and love "—yet, my Eliza, my affection for "you is ſo great, I could not now be "content to part with you even for "heaven, did I not leave you where "you are.——Oh, my dear daugh- "ter! —— obey your uncle —— "be diligent to pleaſe him——give "ear to his inſtructions—do nothing

" without his advice;——and, if in " time you ſhould marry, and be " bleſt with children, as I am with " you, O! bring 'em up in the fear " and knowledge of God; engraft " in their young breaſts, even from " their tender age, virtue and god- " lineſs, and let them ſee by your " example you poſſeſs them both; " ſo ſhall he that now takes an earth- " ly parent from you, prove an hea- " venly one to you.—— And you, " ſir," —— (turning to her uncle, who ſtood looking mournfully over her) " to you, ſir, I bequeath a le- " gacy, the only one I have to give, " — don't refuſe my bequeſt——I " wiſh I had"——" had what?" re-

turned

turned the venerable old man, his furrow'd cheeks fill'd with tears, " can there be a more precious gift " than this amiable child? Oh! " what happineſs to inſtruct her in " the paths of rectitude."

" Here my mother clos'd her eyes, and I believe my uncle thought her dead; but, ſtooping again down to her face, aſk'd how ſhe found herſelf——" In body very weak, but, I " hope, ſtrong in my mind——I am " ſenſible I'm dying!——but, thank " God, I've nothing to fear from " death, but all to hope; yet I " ſhould be glad, my dear ſir, if, " while I am ſenſible, you would " pray with me."

" My uncle, the nurſe and I knelt down by the bedſide; and he prayed with great fervency about a quarter of an hour, at the end of which we got up and found my mother ſpeechleſs but ſenſible, which ſhe convinced us of by holding up her hand at our deſire: as the nurſe obſerved ſhe was dying, he anſwer'd, " Rather ſhe now begins to live—— " ſhe changes a mortal for an im- " mortal life;—the life that is led in " this world, is rather the ſhadow of " life than life itſelf:—now ſhall ſhe " be cloathed with the white gar- " ments of immortality — and her " joys be everlaſting, and never have " end;—unto theſe joys ſhall ſhe now

" go,

" go, and ever more poſſeſs them."
—— As my uncle deliver'd the laſt words, we perceived the pallid circle of death encompaſs her countenance, and in an inſtant the heavenly gueſt quitted its terrene abode and left her dead.——

We ſtood ſome moments like ſtatues, when my uncle, catching me by the hand, " Come, (ſays he) my " little one, how happy am I now " that God never gave me, what I " have ſo often and ſo earneſtly " prayed for, a child, on purpoſe " that I might be a parent to you! " come, my daughter, this is a path " we muſt all go; happy could all " tread it as your dear mother

" hath!" —— ſo ſaying he led me weeping to the next room, and leaving me with the maid, retired into his cloſet, where he continued ſome time; from whence, when he returned, he endeavoured to compoſe me with every reaſon my tender years would admit, and with ſuch ſucceſs, that in a very little time, my juvenile mind, unknowing what a loſs I had ſuſtained, became perfectly pleaſed with my ſituation, I only remembering my mother with a pleaſing regret.——

Three years more paſſed without any material occurrence, (except the loſs of the annuity by the deceaſe of the party on whoſe life it was granted)

ed) during which I continued my ſtudies, and received every cordial affection in the power of my dear uncle to beſtow on me, when death bereaved me of him likewiſe.——

As I was now about fifteen years of age, I felt this ſhock as ſeverely as poſſible, ſaw myſelf an orphan without any probable method of ſubſiſtance, my laſt hopes of ſupport expiring with Mr. Hartwell: —— how often did I envy the neighbouring farmers maids!—how fervently wiſh I knew how to milk or churn!—but in vain! I had no knowledge of either; and on my making application to a farmer's wife, and declaring I would endeavour to learn, was only

anſwered

anſwered by a laugh.——Sitting one day in the court before the houſe, lamenting my unhappy ſituation, a chaiſe ſtopt and an elderly lady came down, and, walking up to me, ſaid, very obligingly,——"I hear, Miſs, "your uncle's dead—I am very ſor- "ry for it—I came down but laſt "night; and as this houſe muſt be "very loneſome, I inſiſt on your "going with me."——I attempted to ſay ſomething; I know not what!——"Come, come, no ex- "cuſe, my dear; we ſhall find ſome- "thing to amuſe you till your friends "can be acquainted with your ſitu- "ation, and then, if they deſire it, "I will reſtore you to them; in the

"mean

" mean time I'll take care of you."
—— So ſaying, ſhe inſtantly led me to the chaiſe, and putting me (entirely paſſive) into it, ſhe followed, and away we drove to Beauchamp-grove, which is about a mile from my late uncle's.———

I now thought myſelf beyond deſcription, happy, and really not without reaſon, as I was under the care of one ſo good as Lady Wyndham, who continued to heap proofs of her affection on me; and I muſt have been very ungratefull indeed, not to let her ſee I was not inſenſible of them.———

About a month after I had been with Lady Wyndham, ſhe came in-

to

to the apartment ſhe had been pleaſed to let me call mine, where I was at work, and informed me, that ſhe had wrote to Peltwell; and, agreeable to her deſire, my friends had conſented I ſhould ſtay with her at Beauchamp-grove, provided, which ſhe hop'd, I had no objection to it. I return'd her thanks, in the beſt manner I cou'd, and ſo far from having any objection, I only dreaded my being ſoon to leave her ladyſhip, who had been to me as a very affectionate parent: —— ſhe ſeem'd pleas'd with my anſwer, and, ſtraining me to her boſom in a cordial embrace, told me ſhe hop'd I ſhou'd not repent my ſtaying with her.—

I from this time look'd on myſelf, and was regarded as one of the family; and though 'tis a common maxim, and I believe too generally true, that *a favourite has no friend*, yet in my caſe it prov'd falſe, for I do not believe any perſon belonging to the grove was an enemy to me.——

As, from the time I loſt my mother, I had continued my ſtudies only under my uncle's direction, I had of courſe made no advances in the works more immediately ſuitable to my ſex. Lady Wyndham, to whom I was now almoſt an inſeperable companion, took great delight to improve me in them, and, in a little time,

time, I not only recovered what I had loſt, but made a farther proficiency ſufficient to pleaſe my kind inſtructreſs.———

As Sir George Wyndham, her huſband, had juſt embarked for Jamaica, to make an addition to his eſtate in that Iſland, and paſs accounts with his ſtewards there, and carry into execution ſome plans of improvement, which would detain him ſome time; her only ſon, being at the univerſity to finiſh his education, ſhe had choſe this ſeat in their abſence; and not being fond of company, receiv'd and paid very few viſits, but made it her chief ſtudy to find out poor families in diſtreſs, to relieve

relieve their wants and adminiſter any helps the neceſſitous might ſtand in need of: thus, happy in herſelf---bleſt by the poor---revered by thoſe who were honoured with her acquaintance, and almoſt adored by every individual of her well ordered family---no wonder ſhe lived the delight and eſteem of all the country.———

I had now finiſhed my ſeventeenth year, when unhappily (unhappily indeed as it has ſince turned out) young Mr. Wyndham came from the univerſity on a viſit to his mamma, before he ſet out on his travels.———

Lady Wyndham and I were buſied in attending the tranſplanting

and

and watering ſome flowers, in a part of the garden I took great delight in, and had the chief direction of, and which was therefore called my parterre, when, Mr. Wyndham arrived, who, being inform'd Lady Wyndham was in the garden, came inſtantly to pay his duty, not knowing any body was with her; and, having received her bleſſing, bowed reſpectfully to me: and, I cannot but own, I felt a tremor all over me I had till that inſtant been an utter ſtranger to, and which I attributed to a veneration for one ſo nearly and dearly related to my kind patron, as the amiable young gentleman was.——

We ſoon quitted the garden, and I returning to my room left them together, where I believe Lady Wyndham inform'd her ſon, who and what I was.——

It was evening when Mr. Wyndham came, and, through his mamma's perſuaſions, being a little fatigued with the journey, went to reſt early: next morning he was perfectly recover'd, and by his pleaſing account of the univerſity, and amuſing us with ſeveral little anecdotes of the ſtudents there, the hours inſenſibly ſtole away, and night came on before the day ſeem'd hardly begun.———

Thus paſt a few days when Lady Wyndham, whoſe maternal regard

was equalled by few, thought ſhe perceived an alteration in her ſon's health for the worſe;—ſhe obſerved he ſigh'd often—that his lively diſpoſition had changed into reſerve —— that he affected ſolitude, &c. and attributed it to the loſs of his gay companions at Oxford, and the want of more company; but he aſſured her it was not, and that he never was more happy in company in his life---that the dejection of his ſpirits was only the effect of the weather, and would wear off as the ſultry heats ſhould abate: theſe reaſons ſeem'd to ſatisfy the indulgent mother, by whoſe deſire, I join'd my little accompliſhments to make the

place

place as agreeable as poſſible, which ſhe with pleaſure obſerved ſucceeded ſo well that, in a few days, his health ſeem'd re-eſtabliſhed, and his ſpirits to have recovered their wonted alacrity.——

Since Mr. Wyndham's arrival, every day after dinner, the uſual time of my lady's retiring to her room for about an hour, I uſed to amuſe myſelf on my harpſichord, as the young gentleman ſeemed to take great pleaſure in hearing and accompanying me on the flute, of which he was a compleat maſter; but one afternoon he could not be found, and I having no inclination for muſic, walk'd out likewiſe, and undeſignedly took

the ſame path Mr. Wyndham had gone, which I did not know, till I ſaw him ſitting at the foot of a large oak, and heard him ſing very melodiouſly; not being near enough to diſtinguiſh the words, I approached him for that purpoſe; he turning his head ſaw me, and immediately ſtood ſtill, with eyes fixed on me, while I advancing defired him to favour me with the ſong he had been ſinging: he ſaid, he hardly thought it worth my hearing, but in obedience to my commands, it was, ſuch as it was, at my ſervice; and immediately, in the moſt mellifluous voice I had ever heard (for I had never heard him ſing before) and to notes as harmoni-

ous

ous as ever Mr. Jackſon of Exeter can compoſe, he began :

Before my wond'ring eyes beheld
My heav'nly, blooming, beauteous fair,
Sweet calm content my boſom fill'd,
My peaceful mind was void of care ;
My time roll'd happily ſerene,
Without one ſigh to intervene.

But now, alas ! adieu to peace,
Sweet peace no more my ſoul can know ;
Still ev'ry hour my griefs encreaſe,
Still ev'ry moment ſwells my woe :
And my fond heart, of joy forlorn,
Mourns leſt it meets my fair one's ſcorn.

Come lenient hope and eaſe my mind,
Pour in my breaſt thy healing balm,
Poſſeſs my ſoul ſhe will prove kind,
So ſhall my boſom's ſtorm turn calm.
Aid me, propitious God of Love !
And make the fair my flame approve.

If, by thy power, the charming maid
  Shall ſweetly to my love incline,
No future cares ſhall e'er invade,
  But bliſs and joy employ our time;
Each hour I'll conſecrate to thee,
From ev'ry other paſſion free.

But if the ſtory of my love,
  Will in revealing give her pain,
Far from my tongue the ſpeech remove,
  And let me ſilent ſtill remain;
For rather far to death I'd bear
My grief, than cauſe my love one care.

During the ſong, I at one inſtant ſeem'd to feel ten thouſand different ſenſations; I ſhook with cold, glow'd with heat, my breath ſeemed to be quite gone, my heart flutter'd, my ſpirits ſunk, and I believe, had I tried, I could not have ſpoke one word;—

whether

whether Mr. Wyndham perceived the agitation I was in, or no, I cannot tell, but as ſoon as he had done ſinging, he dropt on one knee, and clapping his hand on his breaſt——

" Pardon me, madam ——excuſe " me, dear young lady——I did not " intend ſo abruptly to declare my- " ſelf; but my whole ſoul is ſo full " of——ſo poſſeſt with every idea of " your excellence, I can no longer " forbear, preſumptuous as it is—— " I can no longer forbear telling you " I love you, and hope you will not, " do not--dear Miſs Smithſon—do " not hate me for this declaration."—

Hate you, ſir!—God forbid!—no, ſir, I eſteem, I reverence you, as it cer-

tainly is my duty to eſteem and reverence the ſon of my worthy lady;—but do, dear ſir, riſe, and do not make a young creature unhappy.———

"Unhappy, Miſs!"

Unhappy, ſir; indeed you make me very unhappy—you diſtreſs me much.———

"Far be it from me (he return'd, "riſing) to diſtreſs you—to make "you unhappy!—no, miſs,—rather "than diſtreſs you one moment, let "me be ever wretched —— rather "than make you the leaſt unhappy, "I cou'd be content to be ever "miſerable!"———

Forbear, ſir, theſe expreſſions; they are very improper either for Mr.

Mr. Wyndham to make uſe of, or me to attend to.——

He was going to reply, but I deſired him to excuſe my ſtaying with him—turned towards the houſe, and left him ſtanding ſeemingly loſt in thought, and could only hear him ſay, "O, miſery!"——

As ſoon as I got home, I haſten'd to my apartment, to give ſome eaſe to my grief-ſwoln heart by a flood of tears; in the midſt of which, Lady Wyndham came in and ſurpriz'd me,——"What, (ſhe cry'd) "my dear Eliza in tears!"

Oh! madam, (I returned, flinging myſelf at her feet) forgive me, dear lady, forgive me!—I am very wretched,

wretched, very miſerable; but, indeed, I am innocent!———

"Wretched! for what? Miſe-
"rable! why, my love?—innocent
"you are—I know you muſt be in-
"nocent:—but what's the matter!
"(interrupted the amazed lady,
"raiſing me and preſſing me to
"her boſom) why does my child
"weep?"

Her embrace renew'd my tears, which render'd me incapable of informing her for ſome time; but, as ſoon as I was able, I gave her a circumſtantial account of my meeting her ſon, with his declaration, and how I had left him, and told her how miſerable it made me,

me, to think I ſhould be the occaſion of the leaſt uneaſineſs to her or her family, as I knew I now muſt, but beg'd her to allow me to leave her houſe, if ſhe would be kind enough to recommend me elſewhere, that by Mr. Wyndham's not ſeeing me he might ſoon forget me, which I hop'd he would, and extinguiſh the firſt ſparks of a paſſion, which, if permitted to continue, would diſturb his peace of mind, and make me wretched in having been the cauſe, however innocent, of interrupting the tranquility of one ſo near and dear to my good benefactreſs! ——

" Wor-

" Worthy girl!—Oh how ſuperior
" is this openneſs to all the mean
" arts of affectation, (reply'd my
" lady ſtraining me cloſer to her and
" kiſſing me) I thank my Eliza for
" her information—generous maid!
" —unhappy George! — again let
" me thank you, my dear child, I
" was afraid this was the cauſe of
" my ſon's illneſs—he knew it not
" himſelf, — who can ſee you with-
" out loving you?——Oh that it
" was in my power — punctilious
" world!—I would Sir George knew
" my Eliza as I do,—I'm ſure he
" would not blame his ſon."

In ſuch broken ſentences as theſe did my lady go on for near a quarter

ter of an hour, ſometimes weeping, ſometimes embracing me, till I at length repeated my deſire of her diſpoſing me in ſome other place, and promiſing to return to her as ſoon as Mr. Wyndham ſhould leave Beauchamp-grove; but ſhe poſitively refuſing to let me leave the houſe, we at laſt agreed I ſhould keep my apartment as much as poſſible, and ſtudiouſly avoid giving him an opportunity of diſcourſing with me alone; which, with lady Wyndham's aſſiſtance, was very eaſy for me to perform. ——

I regulated my conduct ſo agreeably to this determination, that for ſeveral days Mr. Wyndham could only

only ſee me in preſence of my lady; and, by his behaviour, I thought he had entirely forgot what he had ſaid to me at our laſt meeting, and looked on it only as a little piece of gallantry, uſual among young gentlemen to every ſtrange face they ſee; but I knew him not, his paſſion, like a fire kept from blazing, burnt more intenſely inwards, and in a little time ſo far affected him, as to confine him to his room.—

His diſeaſe was look'd on and treated as a fever by the phyſicians, who likewiſe aſſured Mrs. Wyndham that was really his complaint, and they made no doubt in a little time to overcome his malady---but

their

their prognoſtics were vain!—his illneſs, in ſpite of their regimen and medicine, encreaſed, and, in leſs than a week, he became delirious; when the true cauſe of his diſtemper appear'd. ——

He had not, from the firſt of his ſickneſs, mention'd me or heard my name, and by his placid behaviour before, neither Lady Wyndham nor myſelf had the leaſt idea of an affection for me being the latent cauſe of his grief, but as ſoon as his diſorder had gained the maſtery of his reaſon, he no longer had the command of his tongue, but, impelled by his paſſion, he kept continually calling on me and for me; ſometimes blam-

ing

ing me for cruelty, and, at other times, his mother for keeping me from him.——

The phyſicians obſerving his frequent repetition of my name, enquir'd of Lady Wyndham, more particularly, the reaſon, and from her account were now convinced what was the cauſe of his affliction, and adviſ'd by all means, if poſſible, the object of his regard might be ſome how introduc'd to him, as the moſt proper method of calming his diſturb'd reaſon, whereby his mind would probably become leſs perturb'd, and he might again ſoon enjoy his health, as ſerenity would more contribute to his recovery,

than

than any thing in the whole materia medica.——

Lady Wyndham immediately ſent for me, informed me what the doctors had adviſed, and hop'd I would not be againſt paying her ſon, in whom her life was wrapt up, a viſit.——

I heſitated not one moment to comply with her deſire, but as my being introduced at once, without any intimation of a viſit from me, might too ſenſibly affect him in his preſent ſtate, we thought it better to delay till he had been informed of my intention—— and he was therefore made acquainted with it in the firſt moments of a calm repoſe. ——

He desired to rise and be led into his dressing-room, that he might receive me properly, which by the doctor's permission was accordingly performed, and I was acquainted immediately therewith.——

On my entrance, he was reclined on a sopha, with his head in his mamma's lap, who as soon as the door opened, said, " my dear, here's " Miss Smithson,"— he attempted to rise but not having strength sufficient sunk again on the sopha, when looking towards me with eyes of inexpressible tenderness, " I am " much obliged to you my dear " Miss, for the honour of this visit—

" and

" and more ſo as it exceeds my ut-
" moſt expectation or hope."——

I replied, I could no longer delay myſelf the happineſs of enquiring after his health, as I had been informed he was deſirous of ſeeing me, and I hoped I now beheld him much better than he had been.——He ſigh'd—he thank'd me for my hope, that he truly had been very deſirous of ſeeing me, but did not know he had let the wiſh eſcape his lips, as he was reſolved, rather than to give me again, as he had done once before, an uneaſy moment, to let the fatal ſecret of his paſſion be obliviate in his

grave, where he hoped ſoon to be.——

Here his mother, and happy for me ſhe did, interrupted, "Say "not ſo my dear George, Heaven "I hope will let you live yet many "happy years; nay, I hope I ſhall "enjoy ſome happy ones with you "before I go to my laſt home."— "Oh madam!" cry'd Wyndham, "that's impoſſible, I feel it here, "(clapping his hand to his heart) "here's the indelible wound! but, as "Miſs Smithſon has condeſcended "to viſit me, I die happy."

"Talk not of death my dear love, "you have hitherto lived my de- "light,—my comfort,—and Heaven

"will

" will—I feel it will grant me the
" inexpreſſible happineſs of having
" you---the ſupport of my old age---
" the prop of my declining life ;—
" therefore, my deareſt child, away
" with theſe gloomy ideas, and you
" will ſoon again recover, while I and
" my Eliza will"---" Dear madam!"
he ſtopt her with, " you are too
" good, I know the fondneſs you
" have for me would raiſe ideas in
" my favour I am altogether unwor-
" thy of---Oh Miſs Smithſon!----
" once more I beg your pardon, for
" what I ſaid when I met you laſt
" alone, and let me again aſſure
" you could I have avoided it, I
" would not have mentioned once

" my fatal paſſion, as I have been
" convinced ever ſince I ſaw you,
" none but the moſt conſummate me-
" rit could have ever deſerved your
" leaſt regard;---how then could I
" aſpire ! "——

Here his weakneſs overcame his power of ſpirit, and it was with great difficulty he kept from fainting.——

Oppreſt with his diſtreſs, and regarding myſelf as the author of it, I could not help ruſhing towards him, and crying out, Live my dear ſir, live and be happy, and let me who am moſt the occaſion of your uneaſineſs, die; life is to me a burthen, and to ſee you unhappy, would be Hell---" You ſhall neither

die"

" die,"—interrupted Mrs. Wyndham, " ye ſhall both live—ye ſhall " both be happy.—I will write to " Sir George, and when he knows the " excellence of one, and the love of " the other, he will inſtantly give his " joyful conſent for the union of two " formed for each other."

The extreme tenderneſs of Lady Wyndham ſo entirely overcame me I could not refrain weeping aloud, which brought the Phyſician into the apartment, who would not allow the viſit to be continued longer at that time, and we accordingly parted in a ſituation which may be felt but cannot be deſcribed.

Lady Wyndham immediately wrote a letter to Sir George, according to her declaration, in which ſhe uſed every argument in her power to induce him to conſent to our marriage, informing him the death of their dear ſon would be the certain conſequence of his refuſal, and likewiſe mention'd me in terms of approbation it would be very preſumptuous for me to imagine I had any right to, but which I believe her partial fondneſs cauſed her to think I had.

It would have been the utmoſt arrogance in me to have attempted a refuſal to my lady's kind propoſal; nay, prepoſſeſs'd as I was in the fa-

vour

vour of her amiable ſon, it was impoſſible, and I, from the next time I ſaw him, indulged myſelf in regarding him as my guide, my inſtructor, my protector and conductor through this tranſitory life to one of permanent bliſs; I look'd on him with fond affection, as one whoſe happineſs or miſery was inſeparable from mine, one who was to be—my huſband.

During the time we waited an anſwer to my lady's letter, I need not ſay it was the greateſt happineſs I could enjoy to behold my deareſt Wyndham again gradually recover his health, and be bleſt with his affection who was entirely poſſeſt of mine.

At length the wiſh'd-for day arrived which brought a letter from Sir George, wherein he declared his ſorrow for his ſon's diſorder, and that he made no doubt, if he had been in England, he ſhould have prevented Lady Wyndham's requeſt, as he was fully convinced her good ſenſe, and regard for his dear George, would not admit her to beſtow ſo many encomiums, and laviſh ſo much praiſe, on any object that was not worthy their ſon—that, as to fortune, tho' in moſt alliances neceſſary, yet in the preſent might be diſpenſed with, as the poſſeſſion of every other happy requiſite for marriage would more than compenſate the want of it,—that

he

he ſhould be glad to have been preſent at his ſon's marriage, but as his affairs would detain him ſome time longer in the iſland, left it to her and Mrs. Wyndham's directions, whether it ſhould be delay'd ſo long or not, and concluded with wiſhing us all every bleſſing and happineſs we could expect or enjoy.

As ſoon as Lady Wyndham had read the letter ſhe came to us, and ſmiling, ſaid her deareſt children ſhould now be happy, and herſelf the moſt bleſſed of mothers; that Sir George had given his conſent to our union, and ſhe now ratify'd her's.

Mr. Wyndham had ſcarce patience to hear out, when, flinging himſelf on

on his knees, and catching her hand, he rapturouſly cried out, " Beſt, " beſt of mothers!——tendereſt of " fathers!—be ever bleſt for this kind " condeſcenſion:—may I and my " dear Eliza live but to deſerve this " love---I'm ſure we ſhall----yes my " ever honoured mamma, my Eliza " and I will"——hearing my name mentioned recovered me from that reverie, that extacy of thought, I had been immers'd in for the few moments this ſcene had laſted, and was going to follow Mr. Wyndham's example, but was prevented by Lady Wyndham, who claſping me in her arms, at the ſame time interrupted Mr. Wyndham with " enough

" my

" my dear child, I am too well con-
" vinced of your love, and Miſs
" Smithſon's merit, to have the
" leaſt doubt, but my felicity will
" encreaſe every day, ſeeing you
" happy in each other, and bleſt
" with growing affections and cor-
" dial love."

As every obſtacle to the completion of our bliſs was now removed, Mr. Wyndham very earneſtly importuned me to ſet a day for the celebration of our nuptials, which I declined but left it entirely to my lady, who accordingly fix'd it for that day month; as the intermediate time would be abſolutely employed for the

the purchaſing ſome little things neceſſary on that ſolemn occaſion.——

Oh how inſcrutable are thy ways O Providence!--- who can trace thy ſteps?---who can pervade thy hidden decrees?----While my dear Wyndham and myſelf were planning ſcenes of joy for years to come, raiſing ideas of encreaſing happineſs, and were, as we thought, on the very brink of connubial ſweets,— a terrible, and as it was unexpected---very terrible misfortune intervened, and at once diſſipated all our expected bliſs;—— the very day that ſhould have given me to my Wyndham's arms---conſigned his mother to the grave;------ the very church in which I ſhould

have

have given my hand to him-----received her dear remains;---the very minister who should have pronounc'd us man and wife---read the burial service over her---her much lamented frame;---the very villagers who were to have strewed flowers in our way ---strewed the baleful cypress and funereal yew before her hearse---and she by whom my Wyndham first had life was now herself a lifeless corpse.———

This mournful event affected Mr. Wyndham so much, it was fear'd he would have relaps'd into his illness again, for though he bore it like a man, yet he likewise felt it like a tender son; and it was some time before

his

his mind was calm enough to attend to any buſineſs: I cannot deſcribe my own feelings, but think, had I not been with him whom my ſoul fondly loved, I had ſunk under the great loſs.——

Lady Wyndham's death neceſſarily poſtponed our marriage, and as ſoon as Mr. Wyndham was able, he informed Sir George thereof, and hoped ſoon to ſee him in England, that we might at our union, receive the bleſſing of the only parent we had now on earth.——

About ſix weeks after Mr. Wyndham's letter had been diſpatch'd, and about three months from my lady's death, during which time we indulg'd

dulg'd ourſelves in pleaſing melancholy, intermingled with mutual profeſſions of heartfelt love, and ſweeteſt pureſt ſenſations of innocent delight; we received a letter from Sir George, informing us of his intended return to England as ſoon as poſſible, (he having been acquainted with his great loſs by Dr. Goodman, one of my lady's phyſicians, while Mr. Wyndham was incapable of writing, on account of his affliction) and, in about three months more, he arrived in town, and wrote to Beauchamp-grove for his ſon immediately to meet him in London.——

Accordingly next morning, Mr. Wyndham ſet out for the metropolis, leaving me more miſerable at parting than ever I had been before.—— Three days after I received, by the poſt, a tender letter from him, acquainting me of his ſafe arrival in Albemarle-ſtreet; that he had not yet ſeen Sir George, who was then from home, but had ſnatch'd that opportunity of informing me of his health, and hop'd in a poſt or two to inform me when he ſhould be ſo happy to meet me again, never to part more on earth. Anxious did I paſs the tedious days, till the third poſt brought, from my dear Wyndham, this billet——

" I

" I cannot, as I flatter'd myſelf
" I ſhould, by this time, acquaint
" my deareſt Eliza, when I ſhall
" be ſo bleſt to return to Beau-
" champ; but hope it will not be
" long firſt: in the mean time, en-
" treat her to be happy, and believe
" me to be entirely her

" WYNDHAM."

This ſhort note, ſo far different from what I flatter'd myſelf I ſhou'd receive, made me very uneaſy, as I was certain ſomething more than common had intervened, which prevented Mr. Wyndham's being more explicit in regard to his return: but judge my concern, when, the ſuc-

ceeding week, I read this letter from him, whom my ſoul held dear,——I have ſo often peruſed it, I am certain I can repeat it, and many others from the ſame adored hand, without varying one word from the originals: but as I always eſteemed it the greateſt bliſs, next to a perſonal converſation, to look over his letters, in his abſence; ſo in my utmoſt extremity I have had the happineſs to preſerve them, and have given them the place they ought to enjoy in my huſband's abſence—my boſom.——This is the firſt that gave me ſo much uneaſineſs———

Albemarle-

Albemarle-Street, Aug. 4.

" I know not, my dear love, how
" to acquaint you with my ſituation!
" —My father—my poor deluded
" father—O, my life!—Harris has
" told me ſuch a ſtory! — He that
" was the tendereſt of huſbands, the
" beſt of parents, to be deluded by
" the artifices of a cunning woman!
" —cunning ſhe muſt be to the high-
" eſt degree, who could, in ſo ſhort
" a time, ingratiate herſelf ſo much
" in his favour, that he has ſcarcely
" once enquired after my honour'd
" mamma; and then, in ſo cold a
" manner, good God! — She that
" was all goodneſs, all love to him,
" to be ſo ſoon forgot; and, by him

" too! by him who was ſo fond a
" huſband! but let me not blame
" him too much; perhaps, I now
" injure him by the ſuppoſition, and
" tis only an affected coolneſs to ſee
" what effect it may have on my
" temper.—But then, this woman!
" — Harris's tale! — if I can com-
" mand myſelf ſufficiently, I'll en-
" deavour to relate it.

" Joining my father's plantation,
" is a ſmall one belonging to a wi-
" dow, one Mrs. Wardman, a wo-
" man who came to the iſland from
" England, as ſervant to a gentle-
" man; and being ſeen by Mr.
" Wardman, proprietor of that
" plantation, he married her; and,

" about

" about three years ago, died, and
" left her his eſtate. Upon my fa-
" ther's arrival, ſhe ſeem'd very de-
" ſirous of cultivating an acquain-
" tance with him; and, having a
" very inſinuating addreſs, obtain'd
" her deſire— that the acquaintance
" continued till the news arriv'd of
" my dear mamma's death, when ſhe
" redoubled her aſſiduities, and, by
" pretending to condole with my fa-
" ther on his loſs, took every oppor-
" tunity of ingratiating herſelf in
" his favour; and when ſhe heard
" of his intended return to England,
" ſhe took care, unknown to him,
" of being, together with her

" too! by him who was ſo fond a
" huſband! but let me not blame
" him too much; perhaps, I now
" injure him by the ſuppoſition, and
" tis only an affected coolneſs to ſee
" what effect it may have on my
" temper.—But then, this woman!
" — Harris's tale! — if I can com-
" mand myſelf ſufficiently, I'll en-
" deavour to relate it.

" Joining my father's plantation,
" is a ſmall one belonging to a wi-
" dow, one Mrs. Wardman, a wo-
" man who came to the iſland from
" England, as ſervant to a gentle-
" man; and being ſeen by Mr.
" Wardman, proprietor of that
" plantation, he married her; and,

" about

" about three years ago, died, and
" left her his eſtate. Upon my fa-
" ther's arrival, ſhe ſeem'd very de-
" ſirous of cultivating an acquain-
" tance with him; and, having a
" very inſinuating addreſs, obtain'd
" her deſire— that the acquaintance
" continued till the news arriv'd of
" my dear mamma's death, when ſhe
" redoubled her aſſiduities, and, by
" pretending to condole with my fa-
" ther on his loſs, took every oppor-
" tunity of ingratiating herſelf in
" his favour; and when ſhe heard
" of his intended return to England,
" ſhe took care, unknown to him,
" of being, together with her

" daughter, paſſenger in the ſame
" veſſel.

" After they had ſailed from Port-
" Royal about two hours, ſhe ap-
" peared on deck, to the apparent
" ſurprize of Sir George; and, on
" his expreſſing as much, ſhe de-
" ſired he would walk into her ca-
" bin, where ſhe would inform him
" why ſhe had undertaken that
" voyage.—What her reaſons were,
" Harris knows not, but believes,
" from what he has obſerv'd ever
" ſince, ſhe perſuaded him it was
" for love of him; and that ſhe has
" charm'd his ſenſes to a return of
" her paſſion, as he has, by degrees,
" left off diſcourſing of Lady Wynd-

" ham

" ham (which he was very fond of
" before) almoſt to the mention of
" her name; that ſhe has apartments
" in the houſe, and tis believ'd ſhe
" will ſoon be Lady Wyndham;——
" forbid it, heaven!——But, how-
" ever, let that be as it may, while
" I am poſſeſt of my love's regard,
" I ſtill muſt be ſuperlatively bleſt.

" Adieu, my life! I am going to
" attend Sir George, and will, at my
" return, acquaint my Eliza with
" whatever I think may attend our
" future happineſs from this meet-
" ing; till when, I remain, with all
" affection, her devoted

" WYNDHAM."

Next poſt my unhappineſs was increaſed by the receipt of this.——

" I wiſh my life was in town, that " I might eaſe my throbbing heart " on her dear boſom. Tis too true " what Harris imagined: Sir George " himſelf has acquainted me with it " —I was, laſt night introduced to " Mrs. Wardman, by my father, as " his intended lady, and had much " ado to command my paſſions, to " behave to her with common de- " cency; but duty to my father, " and not knowing whether any " contrary behaviour might not be " detrimental to our future intereſt,

" com-

" compell'd me to it ſorely againſt
" my inclinations.

" Sir George has not given me
" any opportunity to ſpeak of our
" marriage, but, on my telling him,
" laſt night, I ſhould be glad of the
" honor of ſome private converſa-
" tion, he has appointed me this
" morning in his ſtudy, whither I
" now attend him. — Heaven grant
" me a favourable reception!——

" I am return'd —— Excuſe me,
" my life, I cannot write.——I hope
" to be at Beauchamp on Friday.—
" Adieu, my ſoul's beſt treaſure!

" G. WYNDHAM."

I was at breakfaſt, and had ſcarce read over this (to me) unhappy account, when Mr. Wyndham himſelf appear'd, and, flying, rather than running, claſp'd me in his arms, and in a very affecting tone cry'd out,— "My angel, we're undone!"

A ſtupor immediately ſeized me, and I had no power to aſk him one queſtion; but, feeling myſelf overcome at once by his looks and his words, I fainted away.

On my recovery, he inform'd me, that on his waiting on Sir George, as he had wrote me word he ſhould, he was received with a coldneſs he had, till then, ever been a ſtranger to: and, on his mentioning my name,

name, his father ſaid, he had thought of it; that he had done wiſely not to marry before his arrival; and, as great alterations had happened in his family, he could not at preſent conſent to it.——

This account was thunder in my Wyndham's ears, who reply'd, he had Sir George's permiſſion and conſent to the match; that he hop'd he would not withold what he had before ſo generouſly offer'd, as his happineſs in this world, and, perhaps, hereafter, would conſiſt in his union with me; that it was impoſſible for time, place, or obſtacle, to efface the leaſt idea in my favour; that as he had ever been the moſt indulgent

parent,

parent, he hop'd he would not now, in the moſt important concern of his life, withdraw what he had already beſtow'd—his conſent. ——

To this Sir George reply'd, he had, 'twas true, given him permiſſion, but that was when his affairs were in another ſituation; that his refuſing his conſent now, was for his ſon's future welfare; that he had made connections for him very valuable; that he would have him not diſobey his paternal injunction, but, when he ſaw Miſs Wardman, to look on her as Sir George's intended daughter-in-law, in a double light; that it was Lady Wyndham's letter induc'd him to give his conſent, in

mere

mere affection for Mr. Wyndham, and it was the ſame regard now induc'd him to retract it, and more ſo, as ſince his arrival in England he had made enquiry after my family, and as he could gain no ſatisfactory account thereof, he, on the moſt deliberate conſideration, thought the daughter of one, who, for all he could find, might be a beggar —— too mean to be ſo nearly related to him as his ſon's wife.——

On Mr. Wyndham's endeavouring to expoſtulate with him, and aſſuring him the contrary, he unhappily mention'd, as a parallel, provided it had been true, the obſcure origin of Mrs. Wardman: upon which,

which Sir George threw himſelf in a violent rage, and ſwore if he ever preſumed to marry, or even mention me, he would diſown him as a ſon, and diſinherit him from his eſtate; and that he would immediately ſend word down to Beauchamp to turn me from the Grove. To prevent which was the cauſe of Mr. Wyndham's preſent journey. —— I heard the account through, and really, I believe, felt more for my dear Wyndham than myſelf. I endeavoured to ſolace him all in my power, deſired him to obey his father in regard to me; that perhaps Sir George would, in ſome time, recede from his ſevere demand; that

that if he did not, a child's duty is to ſubmit—that as I was not permitted to call him huſband I would ever revere him as my deareſt friend—that I made no doubt of ſubſiſtence, as Lady Wyndham had given me two Bank-notes of an hundred pounds each to purchaſe trinkets for our wedding, which would now put me into ſome little way of buſineſs more ſuitable to my birth, as it ſeem'd the will of providence it ſhould be ſo, and that he might in time make his father happy in his own inclinations. ——" And can my Eliza think thus " meanly of her Wyndham?" was his reply—" can ſhe think him ſo " unſtable in his love?—can ſhe rea-

" ſon thus, or think he can bear the
" idea of living without her?—no,
" my angel! come life, come death,
" I muſt, I will be your's—no power
" on earth ſhall ever ſever us—we
" will---we can---we ſhall be happy."

Here the ſervant came to let him know the chaiſe was ready —— and turning to me, " Come, my Eliza!" ſaid he, " Sir George ſhall not ſend " you from hence, I will take you— " your lover, your Wyndham ſhall " take you."——

Take me where?---where can I go?

" With me, my life! I'll find ſome " place where you ſhall be ſafe till I " can call you mine---take with you

" ſome

"ſome few things, and let us leave
"this lately delightful—now moſt
"hateful place."

Convinced of my Wyndham's honourable intentions, I ſubmitted myſelf entirely to his direction, and we ſet off from Beauchamp-Grove with heavy hearts. As we travelled poſt, and ſtopp'd no where but to change horſes at the different ſtages, we arrived in town the ſame evening, and were ſet down at one Mrs. Fletcher's, a milliner, who had formerly been woman to Lady Wyndham, and had known young Mr. Wyndham from his infancy—and as ſhe had heard of me often, tho' ſhe had never ſeen me before, ſhe received me politely, and

conducted me to very decent apartments.

Mr. Wyndham left me here, and having no inclination to eat I very ſoon went to bed, I cannot ſay to reſt, as my mind was agitated with ſo many uneaſineſſes, and I was in ſo unhappy a ſituation, without a friend in the world (Mr. Wyndham excepted) to whom I could impart one.

Towards morning I fell, however, into a ſound ſleep, and did not wake till near eleven o'clock, when I found Mr. Wyndham had been at the houſe to enquire how I did two hours before: he however came preſently again, and drank a diſh of chocolate with

with me. Mr. Wyndham, with my conſent, deſired Mrs. Fletcher would attend us, who accordingly came, and being ſeated, he inform'd her minutely of our mutual regard and diſtreſt circumſtances.

The poor good woman heard him with tears in her eyes—wiſh'd it was in her power to make her dear young maſter happy — hop'd Sir George would ſoon ſee better, and not diſtreſs ſo much his only ſon—that I, for her dear dead lady's ſake, to whoſe goodneſs ſhe ow'd all ſhe had in the world, was welcome to her houſe till the affair was ſettled to our ſatisfaction.

As the charge of an additional perſon in her family was more than I thought her circumſtances could bear, I inſiſted on paying her a guinea a week for lodging and board, and ſhe at laſt was prevail'd on to accept it while I ſhould ſtay with her.

In a little time Sir George married Mrs. Wardman, who, as ſoon as ſhe became Lady Wyndham, behav'd to every one in a very imperious manner, except to Mr. Wyndham, whom ſhe endeavour'd every way in her power, to make regard her daughter with the eyes of a lover, but with what ſucceſs you may imagine.

She

She then had recourſe to Sir George, whoſe endeavours were as fruitleſs as his lady's; for on application to Mr. Wyndham he very openly inform'd him, that his affections were fixed; and tho' Sir George had order'd him never to mention the name of his dear love, her image was ſo indelibly ſtampt on his mind it could never be eraſed, and ſo totally was every fond idea fill'd with her, there was no room for any other object to intrude.

Lady Wyndham, fully convinc'd of the impoſſibility of ſucceeding in her deſigns, ſeem'd entirely to give over the purſuit, and in a little time ſhe and Sir George, leaving Mr.

Wyndham in London, went into Somerſetſhire.

They had left the town about three weeks, during which time my dear Wyndham had ſcarce been abſent from me an hour in a day, but we were condoling each other on our too cruel fate; when one afternoon, after having been in Albemarle-ſtreet, he came (joy beaming in his eyes) to my apartment, and claſping my hand, cry'd—"Kneel, kneel, my "Eliza! and let us return our moſt "humble thanks to that beneficent "Being who has reinſpired my fa-"ther with paternal love---for, O my "fair one! behold (ſtretching his hand, in which he held a letter)

"here

" here has my father reſum'd his " wonted tenderneſs! here is his per- " miſſion that I may be the happieſt " of men, by giving me my deareſt " Eliza!"——I took the letter from him, and read, to my great joy,

" Dear George,

" After having ſo long combated " your inclination, I give place, " thro' Lady Wyndham's perſuaſion, " to your deſire, rather than my own " wiſhes; and if you, on the receipt " of this, continue in the ſame way " of thinking in regard to your in- " tended marriage, you have my " conſent, provided it be done with " all the ſecrecy and expedition poſ-

" ſible;

" ſible ; and you will immediately on
" your eſpouſals embark for Jamaica,
" where, after a year or two's proba-
" tion of the fidelity and care of you
" and your wife, I ſhall not be
" aſham'd to own you as the ſon and
" daughtet of

" G. WYNDHAM."

I read the letter haſtily over, and tho' I thought it ſomething extraordinary to give us permiſſion to marry, and at the ſame time only on condition of our going abroad ; yet, as my dear Wyndham ſeem'd ſo extatically pleas'd at his father's conſent to our union, I forebore taking any notice of it, and the Sunday following

lowing gave him, who had long before the poſſeſſion of my heart, my hand.

By the Tueſday's poſt Mr. Wyndham wrote a moſt grateful letter to Sir George, acquainting him that we were married, and, agreeable to his deſire, would, as ſoon as he choſe, obey his order. For, after Sir George had ſo far condeſcended to indulge his ſon, he undoubtedly had a right to command him where he pleaſed, as every place would be equally happy to him and his Eliza while they were with each other; and that we ſhould not ſtudy *to be*, but follow our inclinations *in being* grateful.

As ſoon as poſſible we receiv'd an anſwer to the letter, wherein Sir George inform'd us he fancied his ſon was out of his ſenſes—that he never gave, nor ever would give, his conſent to our marriage—that he knew not what was meant by obeying his order, as he had never given one—that if he had fooliſhly married, he had done the worſt piece of work he could ever perform — that he and Lady Wyndham ſhould be in town in two or three days, to clear up theſe ambiguities, and find out whether my Wyndham was diſorder'd in his mind, or by his diſobedience had render'd himſelf no longer his ſon.

The

The fourth day from the receipt of this extraordinary epiſtle, which time we paſs'd dreadfully uneaſy, between uncertainty, hope, fear, and a thouſand agitating ideas, they accordingly arriv'd, and Mr. Wyndham, without taking notice of his father's letter, waited on him to know when he would be pleas'd to permit me to aſk his bleſſing.

At ſight of my huſband he roſe haſtily from his chair, and looking fiercely at his ſon, cry'd — taking Mr. Wyndham's letter from his pocket-book—

" George, what does this mean?"

" Mean, Sir!"——

" Aye,

" Aye, mean, Sir !—do not repeat
" my words, but anſwer me, what
" does this mean ?"——

" Sir, it is a letter expreſſing my
" thanks for the honor and happineſs
" you conferr'd on me, when you
" gave me permiſſion to marry Miſs
" Smithſon."——

" I gave you permiſſion ! how !
" when ! where !"——

" I ſhould not have preſum'd to
" have married without, Sir, not
" even with my amiable Eliza ; for
" though it might be in your power
" to make me miſerable, it never
" ſhould undutiful.—Here, Sir, here
" is the kind letter you was pleas'd
" to ſend me, with the conditions

" on

" on which you permitted me to " marry."——

" Let me ſee---(looking over the contents)---" Oh, George! how weak " is man after his firſt lapſe from " virtue!--and can you imagine ſuch " an impoſition as this can gain cre- " dit with the too credulous world? " No: credulous as it is, it can never " ſwallow ſuch vile forgery."——

" Forgery, Sir! Is not that your " letter? Did I not receive it from " you?"

" Why do you aſk me, when you " too well know it to be falſe!---O, " George! George! henceforth I " will never look upon you as a " ſon; never mention your name,

" or

" or ſuffer it in my hearing; and,
" if poſſible, never think I ever had
" one who could behave ſo mean and
" vile."——

He rang the bell, when Harris came in.——

" Harris (ſaid he) let my doors be
" ever ſhut againſt this monſter, and let
" none of my ſervants dare repeat his
" name in my preſence or talk of him
" on any account in my family."—

" Whoſe name, Sir? (reply'd the
" faithful ſervant) not my dear young
" maſter!"—

" His, Harris!---his name that
" would dare to impoſe this forgery
" on me---as mine."—

" That letter, Sir!"—

" Aye,

"Aye, Harris, this letter."——

"Pleaſe to give me leave to look "at it.—This letter, pleaſe your "honour, I myſelf carried from "Beauchamp to the poſt."——

"You!"——

"Yes; me Sir: my lady ſent it "into the hall by Miſs Wardman; "and as none of the other ſer- "vants were there, I thought it my "duty to carry it myſelf for "fear it ſhould be too late for the "poſt."——

"Sit down, George.—— Harris, "deſire my lady to come."—— Harris went and returned with my lady.

" My lady, I'm diſtracted!—— " here's a deep laid ſcene of vil- " lainy. Do you know any thing " of this letter?"

" No, my dear. Why do you " aſk!"

" It contains a forged conſent, as " from me, to George's marriage; " and Harris ſays, your daughter " gave this letter to him to convey " to the poſt."

" I know nothing of it, neither " do I believe my daughter does; " but I'll ſend for her."—— She came obedient to the ſummons.

" Fanny, (ſaid my lady, as ſhe " enter'd) here's this man ſays you " gave this letter to him to ſend to " Lon-

" London: did you ever ſee it be-
" fore?"

" No, indeed, mamma!"——

" No, Miſs! did you not give it
" me in the hall, when only you
" and I were there!"——

" No, you inſolent fellow! would
" you charge me with a falſehood.
" I aſſure you I'll not ſuffer it."

Immediately ſhe burſt into a flood of tears; and Lady Wyndham, pretending to be very much affected, ſinking by degrees on a couch, continued,——

" Indeed, Sir George, I did not
" expect ſuch treatment in my alli-
" ance with you; the bare ſuppoſi-
" tion of which wounds me to the

" ſoul ;—— that villains cannot plan
" ſcenes of iniquity to compaſs their
" bad deſigns, without at the ſame
" time, endeavouring to fix their
" calumny where they are ſure it
" will corrode moſt, by diſturbing
" the domeſtic happineſs of a family ;
" in bringing infamy on an inno-
" cent wife ; and, impoſing on her
" too eaſy huſband. —— Oh ! Sir
" George, it is more than I can
" bear."

So ſaying, ſhe fell backwards and ſobbed much.——

" But they have miſt their aim
" (ſaid Sir George, advancing to
" her, and kiſſing her hand) their
" ſchemes are all abortive here ;
" though

" though deeply plan'd, and black " as hell, I ſee through them."--

Then turning to my Wyndham and Harris;

" Villains be gone, (he cry'd) in- " ſtantly quit my ſight ——dare not " reply, leſt ſomething terrible hap- " pen to ye both."

Mr. Wyndham was going to anſwer, but Sir George drew a piſtol from his pocket (a pair of which he always travelled with, and had not laid them by ſince he had left the chaiſe) and ſwore if they did not inſtantly leave the room, that moment was their laſt. My huſband was too wiſe not to comply with the madman's demand, and immediately came to me at Mrs. Fletcher's,

and left poor Harris to make out his accounts and ſetttle with the ſteward.——

As ſoon as he had acquainted me with the horrid wickedneſs of Lady Wyndham and her daughter (for we both believed them guilty of the forgery, that, by endeavouring to perſuade Sir George it was my Wyndham's, they might thereby alienate Sir George's affections entirely from his ſon, and get rid of an old ſervant, whom they regarded as a ſpy on all their actions, and one who would likely prevent what future ſchemes they might execute on the old gentleman, to the emolument of themſelves, and the injury of his

ſon

ſon and me) he continued "Oh! "my life, how amiable is a virtuous "woman!——who can eſtimate her "worth! what numbers can ex- "preſs her value! or, what lan- "guage deſcribe her perfections!— "Well has the poet ſaid——

"Angels are painted fair to look like
"you——
"There's in you all that we believe of
"Heav'n,——
"Amazing brightneſs, purity and truth;
"Eternal joy and everlaſting love."

"But then, my Eliza, if your ſex "is, as it was intended and form'd "by the bountiful Creator, thus "tranſcendantly amiable, how ter- "ribly, when tainted with vice,

" muſt it ſink into the other ex-
" treme—but let me think no more
" of ſuch; and only hope, a bad
" woman, henceforward, will be a
" prodigy."

As Sir George had now declared himſelf, beyond a doubt, irreconcileable to our marriage; and, as we too well knew Lady Wyndham would do every thing, that art could effect or malice invent, to keep him ſo,—as my Wyndham, who had never been (properly ſpeaking) in the world, ſufficient to know any thing about its concerns; and whoſe only acquaintance with mankind was by books,—as I was more ignorant than himſelf, and he had not one relation

in

in England, to his knowledge, no wonder we were reduc'd to a terrible dilemma, in regard to our future ſubſiſtence. We often conſulted with our only friends, Mrs. Fletcher and poor Harris, without coming to any determination.——

Mrs. Fletcher, at length, advis'd Mr. Wyndham to write to ſome of his colledge-acquaintance, through whoſe intereſt, with their parents or friends, he might be able to obtain a place, either at the court, or in ſome of the publick offices. —— He accordingly made application, by letter, to ſeveral of his intimates at Oxford; but ſome had left the univerſity and were on their travels: it

it was not in the power of others; and a third, who were, to the higheſt degree, fond of careſſing the young gay flouriſhing Wyndham, now, either totally neglected him in diſtreſs, or wonder'd how he could think of applying to them.———

As our ſolicitations thence were vain, we knew not how to proceed: and on another conſultation, poor Harris and Fletcher ſeem'd, at firſt, as much at a loſs as we; but the honeſt old faithful ſervant declared, as he had, by his induſtry and care, ſav'd about five hundred pounds, and though he was aſham'd to make Mr. Wyndham the propoſal of condeſcending to carry on any buſineſs, yet

yet nothing would make him ſo joyful, if his dear young maſter would accept it, and ſuffer him to do the executive part under him as his man, which, as he had ſerv'd his time to a mercer, he knew very well how to perform, and could tranſact the buſineſs very well: that as a diſtant relation had acquired a ſufficiency by keeping a ſhop at Blandford, who wanted to retire, he would engage in it; and ſhould be happy if he might preſume to hope Mr. Wyndham would ſuffer it to be carry'd on for him, under any other name, whereby no one would know it was Mr. Wyndham, and we could not, when we were (as he hop'd he ſhould

ſoon

ſoon ſee us) reconciled to Sir George, incur any calumny by ever having been known to have been concerned in trade.——

" Concerned in trade (reply'd Mr. " Wyndham) Can it be any diſgrace " to be concerned in trade?—— " What would become of this king- " dom was it not for its trade? —— " What makes us now the envy and " the dread of foreigners but our " commerce? —— How were our " fleets, thoſe floating batteries of our " rock-defended iſle in the late glori- " ous war, mann'd, but by the ſons " of induſtrious traffic? —— How " would the votaries of ſoft volup- " tuous eaſe enjoy their far-fetch'd delicacies,

" delicacies, but by the laborious
" voyager?——And how could the
" ever-anxious merchant be ſupplied
" with Britiſh exports, for which, in
" return, he imports products of each
" diſtant clime, and lives himſelf in
" princely luxury, but for the poor,
" tho' induſtrious, the low, tho' inge-
" nious, mechanic?—— Search the
" earlieſt records of time, and bring
" them to the preſent period, you'll
" find tis trade, tis traffic only, has
" been the riſe of, and ſtill continues
" every flouriſhing ſtate; and, when
" that has failed, their grandeur has
" declined, and all their affluence will
" ſoon ſubſide.——

" I

"I thank you, my dear Harris,
"heartily thank you, for your offer,
"as it is a proof of your goodneſs
"of heart, but cannot, however, ac-
"cept it as you propoſe;——yet, as
"I do not think there is a proba-
"bility of ſoon being again, as I for-
"merly have been (happy times!)
"bleſt with my father's love, if you
"chuſe to engage in buſineſs you are
"welcome to the remains of my poor
"fortune: which, with my jewels,
"may amount to about a thouſand
"pounds; it is at your ſervice, and
"that you may not be oblig'd to
"me, I and my Eliza will board with
"you, till you ſhall be enabled to

"pay

" pay me, or I be reinſtated in my " father's favour."

The poor man vented a hearty curſe on thoſe who had deprived him of that favour now, and accepted with joy Mr. Wyndham's propoſal, as he ſaid he ſhould thereby have an opportunity of ſtill waiting on him, and have the honour to be near his perſon.

He accordingly ſet out for Blandford, and in about a month ſent word all things were ready for his honoured gueſts, as he had finiſhed every engagement he could perform without Mr. Wyndham's preſence: we accordingly made what neceſſary preparation was needfull for our journey, which being

being ſoon compleat, we were in leſs than a fortnight more ſettled together.

As the ideas of grandeur and ſplendid fortune but ill ſuited my birth or juvenile ſituation, I never entertained any of them on my own account; I could have been happy, been bleſt in, nay have even preferred a cottage to a throne with the man of my choice, the lord of my heart; but as that dear object of my wiſh, my Wyndham, had been born to all appearance to opulence and eaſe, I own I was very miſerable at the change he now was forced to ſuffer, eſpecially as his regard for, and attachment to me alone, was the ſole

cauſe

cauſe of the great viciſſitude. I ſtrove, as much as poſſible, to hide my uneaſineſs from him; but coming in one day accidentally, while I was on my knees, bewailing his hard fortune, he ſtretching out his hand, took mine, and preſſing it to his lips, —— "Riſe, my love, "(he cry'd) offend not Heaven with "your unjuſt complaints —— Has "not propitious Providence bleſt "me to the height of happineſs in "giving me you, my dear —— "my heart-poſſeſſing treaſure?—— "and ſhall I not be thankful for that "ineſtimable bleſſing, becauſe I do "not likewiſe poſſeſs thoſe much in- "ferior ones, if they are any at

" all——riches!——come, my ſweet
" girl! be compos'd — be happy —
" for, believe me, I am——I muſt
" be ſo, entirely; unleſs you, by
" your uneaſineſs, ſhould make me
" otherwiſe; —— come, bleſs me
" with your ſmiles."

I did ſmile on him, through tears, like ſun ſhine midſt a ſhower of rain; and, hanging on his neck, tenderly thank'd him for his kind acquieſcence to his change of life on my account; and told him, I hop'd I ſhould never make him unhappy, as every wiſh would be to make him otherwiſe. —— He made no doubt, (he returned) but my every wiſh would be fulfill'd; adding,—" Can
" there

" there be any unhappineſs, when " two form'd in uniſon, and bleſt " by marriage, are happy with each " other ? "

The eaſy ſerenity and calm chearfulneſs of Mr. Wyndham, gave me freſh ſpirits, as he ſeem'd entirely to have forgotten Sir George's ill uſage, and to live entirely to love and me.— How bleſt were our mornings walks, and our evening contemplations ! — how ſweetly communicative was my dear companion, to even the moſt trivial enquiry of mine ! —— how happy I to be inſtructed by my love !——

Thus glided on the happy hours— thus revolv'd the joy-encreaſing days,

for four ſweet months; when one fatal night blaſted our hopes, and nip'd our op'ning bloſſom in the bud.——

Harris, poor Harris, had not only purchas'd the ſtock in trade and furniture of the former poſſeſſor, but, with the aſſiſtance of part of Mr. Wyndham's caſh, had made an addition of ſeveral expenſive articles, which, he hop'd, he ſhould have a demand for; and, with the remainder, bought the houſe; and, his buſineſs increaſing, he, to make more convenience, was going to erect an additional building; but unhappily, the workmen brought ſome lime, and laying it againſt one

part

part of the back-warehouſe, which was wood, it took wet by a ſtorm of rain, and ſet fire to the whole.

My Wyndham and I had retired to our chamber; and were on our knees, thanking the Almighty for his benignant protection through the day, when the poor old man, coming ſuddenly into the room, cry'd,—"fly, my dear ſir,—amiable young "lady, fly! — preſerve your valu- "able lives—the houſe is on fire!"

We follow'd him precipitately down, and by the time we had got into the ſtreet, the flames, driven forward by the current of air, had taken poſſeſſion of the houſe; and, notwithſtanding the engine, and all poſ-

ſible help was ſoon at hand, it was too late to preſerve our effects from the ravage of the dire conſumer. I was convey'd, fainting, to the Crown, by Mr. Wyndham, and there put to bed.——

Next morning, being ſomething better, while we were at breakfaſt, Harris came in; and though care, fatigue, and fear had diſorder'd his venerable looks, he ſtrove to compoſe them as much as poſſibly he could, and hop'd we had reſted well.——

We thank'd him; and, enquiring after his health, he reply'd, he had been, at firſt, greatly ſhocked, but when he knew we were ſafe, he was

caſy

eaſy again;——then the thought of his dear maſter and lady's being involv'd in his ruin, had diſtracted him! — till recollecting the houſe, ſtock, and furniture were inſured, though not for their worth, yet ſufficient to pay his kind benefactor,—— he was now quite happy.——

The next poſt, he ſent to the fire-office an account of his terrible accident, and receiv'd in anſwer, by the return of the ſame poſt——

Mr. JAMES HARRIS,

" Sir, I am order'd by the directors " of this office to acquaint you they " receiv'd your's of the 13th, and

" are very ſorry for your misfor-
" tune; and, likewiſe, that, by
" your neglecting to have the policy
" transferr'd from Mr. Clarke to
" you, and allow'd in their books,
" by their aſſignment, you have for-
" feited all right you might other-
" wiſe receive from the office on this
" occaſion, and it is impoſſible, ac-
" cording to the rules, orders, and
" conditions of inſurance, ever to
" be intitled to any benefit there-
" from.

" I am, ſir,

" (For the directors and comp.)

" Your humble ſervant,

" JOHN THOMAS."

The

The receipt of theſe few lines, ſtruck Harris dumb for a while; but, before Mr. Wyndham had read them to me, he recover'd his ſpeech—"Unhappy wretch (were his words) "to have been the innocent occa-"ſion of ruin, where I intended "relief!——Oh! my good maſter, "my own downfall would have been "nothing to me, could I have ſe-"cured your property again!—— "Why did I ever agree to take your "money——ill-fated old man!—— "why was I not content with the "houſe as my predeceſſor had left "it?——why did I aim at enlarg-"ing it; (though it was on purpoſe "to make your ſituation more eligible)—

" gible)—how am I humbled for
" my attempt!——could I but have
" thought, I might have known
" you could not have been long be-
" fore you had mov'd in your pro-
" per ſphere.——That houſe, had it
" not been half ſo large, would have
" exceeded the ſummit of my wiſh-
" es; I ſhall, in a little time at
" fartheſt, reſign my breath; and
" the leaſt chamber there would have
" ſuffic'd for me to have been con-
" vey'd from to the grave.—— But
" this complicated ruin!—— what
" ſhall I do!"

Here he ſtopp'd; and Mr. Wyndham reply'd,——

" Have

" Have patience, my dear Har-
" ris, have patience;—— All is for
" the beſt — at leaſt it is our duty
" and happineſs to think ſo.—If we
" believe Providence regards the af-
" fairs of his creation, and that
" not one ſparrow falls to the ground
" without his knowledge, it muſt
" make us eaſy under the moſt try-
" ing circumſtances, and thank God
" that is far from being our caſe at
" preſent:—you, doubtleſs, by your
" behaviour, in town, have made
" yourſelf many friends; and I and
" my Eliza have ſome acquaintance,
" —there are many ways of acquir-
" ing ſubſiſtance more than one,—

" go,

" go, conſult ſome of yours; and I
" and my Eliza will try ours."

We accordingly went out, and Mr. Wyndham and myſelf viſited three or four families, we had been free with ſince we came to Blandford, but found a kind of condolatory reſerve; and as none of them ſeem'd to hint any enquiry into what we intended to do —— we could not any way begin the ſubject ourſelves.---

The laſt perſon we went to, was a plain elderly man, a quaker by profeſſion, who, ſeeing us enter, deſired us to ſit down; and, without any prelude, began ——

" I am very ſorry, young man, to
" hear what news you have receiv'd
" from

" from London: but, as I love to
" be open, I'll acquaint you with
" what, perhaps, you might other-
" wiſe remain a ſtranger to; for
" though people may behave with a
" reſerve, yet few will acquaint you
" with the cauſe.———

" You muſt know, that ſince your
" reſidence in this town, ſome peo-
" ple have made it their buſineſs to
" pry into your ſituation; and,
" from what they have been in-
" form'd, ſince the misfortune, have
" pronounc'd you a perſon of deſ-
" perate circumſtances----a decay'd
" gentleman; —— and, let me tell
" you, gentility without ability, is
" like a pudding without fat. That

" neigh-

" neighbour Harris's (who they
" found out was your partner) pre-
" tenſions of enlarging his ſtock,
" was only to enable him to make
" away with what Clarke left; and
" that, to prevent diſcovery, you
" ſet the houſe on fire, on purpoſe
" to defraud the iuſurance-office;
" but by the vigilance of the peo-
" ple belonging to it, you have been
" detected, and the bite has bit the
" biter: I do not pretend to ſay tis
" true—tis very bad if it is—I hope
" tis not,—but, let that be as it will,
" I give you my advice; which is,
" The ſooner you quit Blandford,
" the better; as the longer you ſtay
" the more your every action will

" be

" be inſpected: for nothing is look'd
" on ſo vile in this town, as an in-
" cendiary. —— Poor Blandford has
" ſuffered already ſufficiently by
" fire."——

" Good God! (continued Mr.
" Wyndham) uncharitable world!—
" I do not think that villain born,
" that could commit ſo atrocious an
" act: and yet ſome can judge ſo
" baſely of me! —— I thank you,
" ſir, for your information; and
" will take your advice as ſoon as I
" poſſibly can —— for though my
" ſelf-felt innocence is happineſs to
" me, in the midſt of trouble, I
" deſpiſe to herd with thoſe, who can

" judge

" judge ſo mean, ſo raſhly of one,
" of whom they know no ill!"

We return'd inſtantly to our inn, where we were met by Harris, who, on ſeeing us come in —— " Are we " (ſaid he) houſe-burners! —— Are " you, my dear young maſter, who " could not hurt a worm, vile enough " to endeavour to fire a town!—Are " you, my amiable miſtreſs, capable " of being a vile incendiary!—— " Down, down to hell, from whence " ye roſe, ſuch vile ſuſpicions! and " ye, ye curſed propagators of " ſuch damn'd untruths, carry " them back yourſelves to the fa- " ther of lies."

Thus

Thus rav'd the old man; and we had much ado to pacify him, by obſerving, that obloquy and malevolence, are often attendants on the moſt praiſe-worthy deeds; and it is not an adage of yeſterday's, that

"On eagle's wings immortal ſcandals fly!
"While virtuous actions are but born and die."

With theſe, and the like arguments, however, we at length calm'd his diſturb'd mind, when he was altogether as unhappy at having diſtruſted Providence for our ſupport, and hop'd he never more ſhould preſume to doubt its protection.—

He now left us, to ſee if any thing had been ſav'd from the ruins; and

my Wyndham and I took our uſually happy, now ſolitary walk——

As we came down ſtairs, a young fellow, genteelly dreſt, came out of a room on the ground-floor, and, addreſſing himſelf to his companion, obſerv'd it was a ſhame the act was not put more ſtrictly into execution concerning vagrants, and no one permitted, though with the moſt ſpecious appearance, to ſettle in any place, without a diſcharge and certificate under the hands of the churchwardens and overſeers of the pariſh they came from, whereby every town would be reliev'd from great inconveniencies, occaſion'd by the intruſion of itinerants, impoſtors, and evil-

vil-minded perſons. As he ſeem'd to ſpeak this directly to Mr. Wyndham, in whoſe face he look'd full as we paſt him, though his diſcourſe was addreſt to his acquaintance, Mr. Wyndham anſwer'd him only with a look of inexpreſſible contempt, and we continued our path to the church-yard.——

As the town's-people, under direction of the clerk, with hautboys and a baſſoon, were ſinging anthems in the church, we ſtopp'd a little to hear them, when the young ſpark, whom we had left at the inn, came round the eaſt end of the church, and furiouſly ſtriding up to Mr. Wyndham, cock'd his hat, and began,—

" Yes, ſir, damn me; my diſ-
" courſe was about you—and if you
" have a mind, you may take any
" method you think proper of re-
" ceiving ſatisfaction, beſides that
" menacing leer——but, perhaps,
" you do not chuſe it; as you
" would then have added ſome
" words to your looks; from which,
" I ſuppoſe, your fear kept you
" tongue-ty'd."

Mr. Wyndham reply'd, —— if he could have rais'd his contempt high enough, he might have ſpoke perhaps, had he regarded him as a gentleman——but as his behaviour prov'd him otherwiſe, he was beneath his ſcorn. ———

The

The imputation of not being a gentleman, ſtung him to the quick —he inſiſted immediately on Mr. Wyndham's repairing the injury, and came cloſe to my huſband's face, who gently puſh'd him aſide, and deſired him not to interrupt our path.———

This ſecond affront ſo exaſperated him, that, mad with rage, he immediately drew his ſword, and made a furious lunge at Mr. Wyndham, which, by great happineſs, he parry'd, and cloſing with him, wrench'd the weapon from his hand—then, ſeizing him by the collar, held him at arm's length.———

"Are you not a villain?" (my huſband cry'd) To which he tremblingly aſſented—"And what could "induce you to make this vile aſ-"ſault on me!——nothing but the "conſciouſneſs of your unworthy-"neſs, and your deſert of that "look I gave you.——Go, wretch, "and be meaner in your own eyes "than mine:——but let this manly "weapon, this neceſſary appendage "to the dreſs of a gentleman, this "glorious inſtrument, when drawn "in a juſt cauſe, and glorious only "then, no more be diſgraced by "dangling at the ſide of a baſe pal-"troon!"

So

So ſaying, thruſting him from him, he broke his ſword in two pieces, and threw them away;—— then taking hold again of my arm, which in the fray he had quitted, walk'd ſlowly on, leaving the abaſh'd poor fellow to his own reflections, and thoſe of ſome few whom chance had made ſpectators, at a diſtance, of the rencontre. ——

As my ſpirits were ſufficiently hurried by this ſcene, we, without going any further, return'd to the inn.———

After a diſh of tea, during which Mr. Wyndham ſpoke much againſt duelling, which he ſaid could never be ſufficiently decry'd, Harris join'd

us; whoſe attempt to recover any thing from the fire had been vain, as what the flames had ſpared, the poor had pilfer'd;—he inform'd us, that, having accidentally ſeen Lord M———'s butler, whom he knew in London, ride through the town, to my lord's ſeat in Cornwall, he had drank a glaſs of wine with him, and acquainted him with his misfortune, who ſeem'd much affected with it, but inform'd him, that Sir Edward Goringe, of Coltsford, had apply'd to my lord for a houſe-ſteward, and as he was not in a hurry, he would ſtay one night in Blandford, and ride over with Harris to-morrow morning, and thought with his recommendation,

mendation, he might, if he choſe, have the place.——

Before Harris would give an anſwer to this kind offer, he thought fit to aſk our permiſſion; and, on our expreſſing a deſire he ſhould accept it, he left us, and ſpent the evening with his accquaintance.—

Next morning a note was left, ſeal'd up, directed to Mr. Wyndham, which was deliver'd him at breakfaſt, and contain'd theſe words,——

" Honour'd Sir,

" I make bold to incloſe you a twenty pound note, and knowing you would

" would not have receiv'd it from
" me, is the reaſon I take this me-
" thod. I am now going with Lord
" M———'s butler, and make no
" doubt I ſhall ſucceed. —— Be not
" offended at my preſumption in
" offering you this trifle now — but
" be aſſur'd, my dear maſter, if
" ever it is in my power, I will
" not be ungrateful, for the accu-
" mulated kindneſſes you have
" heaped on,

" Honour'd Sir,

" Your moſt obedient,

" And very much obliged

" Humble Servant,

" JAMES HARRIS.

P. S. I have

"P. S. I have now five guineas "left, which will be ſufficient, if "I am engaged with Sir Edward; "and if I am not, I will return this "afternoon to Blandford."

The honeſty and gratitude of the poor old man affected us much, of which, and where we ſhould next reſide, engroſs'd all our diſcourſe —

Harris not coming back, according to his letter, we judg'd him hired, and propos'd leaving Blandford the next day—— though where we ſhould go we knew not.——

Accordingly, after breakfaſt the enſuing morning, we paid the bill, and order'd a chaiſe: but on the landlord's

landlord's enquiring whither we were going, Mr. Wyndham ſaid; he cared not, ſo it was from Blandford —any where.——

" Aye, maſter——and why from " Blandford !—I know ſome damn'd " impertinents have been medling " with your character——but never " mind that; ſuch eves-droppers " there are in every place;—— tho' " I believe this town is as free from " them, as any in England,—and if " there were devils in Heaven, Bland- " ford, which is not quite ſo good, " to be ſure, can't be expected to " be entirely clear of imps. —— But " if you do not know where you " are going, what do you intend to

" do

" do when you come to your jour-
" ney's end?"

Mr. Wyndham ſaid, he knew not.——

" Come, come (reply'd the land-
" lord) don't be aſham'd, though
" you was born a gentleman ——
" take my advice. — The pariſh of
" Belverton wants a ſchool-maſter,
" and I ſuppoſe you have learning
" enough for that—— it won't hurt
" you, if you ſhould turn up a trump
" in the long game, to have play'd
" a ſmall card for want of a better
" in the beginning—I'me known to
" the church-wardens, I'll ride over
" and give you a character; and let
" you have a few pieces if you want

" it

" it to ſet you off, while madam
" and you ſhall be welcome to my
" chaiſe, though tis a damn'd croſs-
" road."

Mr. Wyndham thank'd him for his kind intention; that he ſtood in no need of the latter part, but would conſider of the former, and let him know in a little time.——

The landlord withdrew; and on my enquiring if my love could condeſcend ſo low to undertake the education of children——

" Condeſcend ſo low, my Eliza!
" —— call it not a condeſcention,
" but an happineſs, my life, if
" by that we can gain an honeſt
" ſupport---a ſchool-maſter, though
" ſome

" ſome pedants may have diſgrac'd
" the name,
" And where's that palace into which foul
" things
" Sometimes intrude not? ——
" is as neceſſary a profeſſion as
" any in the ſtate, and its profeſ-
" ſors as worthy members ——
" for without learning, wherein had
" we differ'd from ſavages; and
" how can we learn without a
" teacher? -------I believe the taſk
" tedious, to conſult the genius and
" temper of every different child---
" but that once known, by encou-
" raging the meek, and alluring the
" ſtubborn, by kindneſs, rather
" than correction, inſtruction and
" improvement follow of courſe.----

" The

" The ingenious Mr. Thomſon ex-
" preſſes himſelf rapturouſly on the
" ſubject, in his poem on the Spring;
" where he ſays,

" When infant reaſon grows apace, and calls
" For the kind hand of an aſſiduous care;
" Delightful taſk! to rear the tender thought;
" To teach the young idea how to ſhoot;
" To pour the freſh inſtruction o'er the mind;
" To breathe th' inſpiring ſpirit; and, to plant
" The gen'rous purpoſe in the glowing breaſt!

" Who knows, my angel, but I
" may be of more uſe in this capa-
" city, than though I had never loſt
" my father's good graces!---I'll un-
" dertake the buſineſs------I'll with
" alacrity go through it; my heart
" bearing me teſtimony, however
" my endeavours may ſucceed, my
" intentions are juſt."

The

The landlord being inform'd of Mr. Wyndham's determination, was not long before he was ready to attend us. As Belverton is about eighteen miles from Blandford, croſs Saliſbury-plain, we did not arrive till the afternoon, when our late landlord waited on one of the church-wardens (an elderly ſenſible attorney—honeſt to a proverb—above being employ'd in any dirty cauſe, or litigious ſuit, and conſequently of no great practice, conveyancing excepted) who receiv'd us with an openneſs that ſpake the goodneſs of his heart. He inform'd us the ſtipend was twenty pounds per year only, allow'd by the feoffees: but as there was a good

houſe, capable of accommodating boarders, a farther income might ariſe from thoſe, ſufficient to maintain a gentleman decently with frugality.——

The next day we ſaw the ſchool-houſe; and a meeting of the feoffees being appointed, Mr. Wyndham was univerſally approv'd; and the next week commenced ſchool-maſter in form.——

And now our fate, which had hitherto been an almoſt continued ſtorm, ſeem'd at once to fall calm, and we were truly in the ſituation deſcribed by the poet,——

" Pleas'd

" Pleas'd with ourſelves, and with our hum-
" ble things,
" Beneath the ſmiles—beneath the frowns of
" kings,
" And felt the bliſs that in contentment
" ſprings! ——

In about a week, poor Harris, who had been at Blandford and enquired us out, came and told us he believ'd he was ſettled with Sir Edward, who was in a very infirm ſtate of health, and was going, by the advice of his phyſicians, to the ſouth of France, whither he ſhould accompany him; and hop'd when he return'd to England he ſhould find us as he wiſh'd we now were.—We thank'd the old man, who took

an affectionate leave of us, and return'd to Coltsford.———

In leſs than half a year after our being ſettled at Belverton, my Wyndham's happineſs, I believe, was increaſed by my being mother to my Emily. —— As ſoon as ſhe was born (for he was in the room kindly ſupporting me in my extremity, which enabled me to bear my ſufferings with greater eaſe) before ſhe was dreſt, he took his helpleſs infant in his arms, and, kneeling, weeping return'd thanks to the Giver of every good gift for my ſafe delivery, and making us parents of a child of right and perfect make.---He pray'd that if the Almighty permitted her

to

to live, it might be to his glory, our comfort, and her eternal happineſs.———

I was as well as could be expected; and on my enquiring whether Mr. Wyndham would permit me to ſuckle my child;——"Why does my love "aſk me that queſtion? (he reply'd) "ſhe cannot be ſo much a ſtranger "to my heart, to imagine I could "be ſo cruel to debar my dear in-"fant its own--its proper nutriment! "no, my Eliza, let us never by a "falſe delicacy deny our little ones "the proviſion nature deſign'd them, "and which, as neceſſary to their "ſubſiſtance, ſhe has furniſhed for "them at their entrance into life;

" ——How repugnant muſt it be to
" humanity to withold that from
" them which, in the ſtricteſt ſenſe,
" is entirely their own!—And, how
" aggravating muſt be the crime of
" thoſe parents, if they are at all
" capable of performing the ten-
" der office, to hire ſome merce-
" nary wretch to be guilty of the
" ſame cruelty to their offspring,
" that they may be able to behave
" beneath the dignity, and forego
" the duty of mothers."

My joy, on finding Mr. Wyndham's ſentiments on this engaging occaſion, ſo agreeable to my own, is paſt expreſſion, and the reſulting happineſs on applying my little one to

my

my breaſt, can never be felt by any but thoſe who have been in the like bleſt ſituation.—— How has my maternal regard been more than doubly repaid, when my ſweet infant has let go my nipple from its boneleſs gums, and in a ſmile expreſs'd its gratitude! its little hand held up, imploring by its ſize and tenderneſs, redoubled care during its infantine ſtate; and, by inarticulate ſounds, ſeeming to make me ſenſible of a return of filial love for my parental affection.——

We continued in this happy ſituation till laſt ſpring; and though Mr. Wyndham had but a ſmall pittance for his fatigue, which was very great, yet, as our wants were confined in

very narrow bounds, the income was ſufficient to ſupply them all, and we enjoyed unutterable delight; for

" We were the happieſt pair of human kind!
" The rolling year its varying courſe perform'd
" And back return'd again,
" Another and another ſmiling came,
" And ſaw our happineſs unchang'd remain;
" Still in her golden chain
" Harmonious concord did our wiſhes bind,
" Our ſtudies, pleaſures, taſte the ſame."

Mr. Wyndham did indeed wiſh ſometimes, that his father, who had been once a tender one, was ſo now, as then he might have the pleaſure of beholding how happily we lived, and his little Emily might cheer his bending age with infant ſmiles, and bleſs him

him with her ſweet attempts to make him underſtand her artleſs prattle.

This enviable ſtate we poſſeſſed till February laſt, when our unlucky ſtar which had ſo long been ſet again roſe, and poured its malignant influence on us to a much greater degree than we had ever before experienced—to a degree that I thought impoſſible to ſubſiſt under.——

Mr. Wyndham"——

Here Mrs. Wyndham was ſtopp'd, and we had ſcarce time to hear Johnſon, who was behind, call out, " Steady, boys, ſteady"—before the coach was overturn'd, and we were all neck and heels together; as I felt we we were going, I turn'd my back towards

wards the inclining ſide, by which means little Emily, whom I held tight in my arms, fell uppermoſt, and was taken out almoſt immediately by Johnſon (who had been thrown out of the baſket) and ſet in the road; my hand being now uppermoſt, as I quitted the child, he laid hold of it, and crying out "tumble up, tumble "up there," pulled me likewiſe out of the coach.

We were now both employ'd in giving what aſſiſtance we cou'd to our fellow-travellers, and having diſengaged Miſs Jones and Mrs. Wyndham, who were but little hurt, but ſo much frighten'd they had need of ſupport; accordingly each accept-

ed

ed one of my arms to the turnpike-houſe, where, as ſoon as I had conducted them, I left them, and return'd to Johnſon's aſſiſtance, who had by this time got one of the fat ladies out, and was pulling at the legs of the other, when a hoarſe voice from between them hallow'd out, "O Lord, I ſhall be choak'd!" I look'd in to ſee what it could be, when I perceiv'd our fellow-traveller's neck preſs'd ſo cloſe between the lady's knees, that he was quite black in the face.——I could hardly help laughing at his droll appearance: however, thinking his ſituation at preſent none of the moſt agreeable, I aſſiſted Johnſon, and with ſome difficulty

ficulty diſengaged him from his embracers; and, ſoon after, got his companion right end uppermoſt, who made a moſt hideous noiſe all the while, and ſtill continued ſhrieking, ſhe was murder'd, and dead, and her arm was broke.

We, however, got her likewiſe to the turnpike-houſe; and Johnſon, as the horſes were taken off, mounted one and away he ſet off, kicking and beating the poor creature terribly, back to Baſingſtoke, and ſoon return'd, bringing with him a ſurgeon, who, on examining the lady, found ſhe had diſlocated her ſhoulder, and declar'd ſhe could proceed no farther on her journey.

The

The loſs of a linſpin from the hind wheel, the coachman ſaid had occaſion'd the accident. He ſoon put in another, and we proceeded onwards, leaving the wounded paſſenger behind. —— Johnſon, who now had room in the coach, ſwearing it was a juſt judgement on her for her behaviour in the morning.

As, during the reſt of our journey to Murrell-green (where we were to change horſes) the time was taken up in mutual enquiries about our accidents, with hopes of our receiving no harm, &c. Mrs. Wyndham could not continue her hiſtory for ſome time; and I take this opportunity of releaſing you

and

and myſelf, till ſhe begins again, when I will acquaint you with the ſequel of her affecting tale; and hope, in the mean while, you will believe me to be, &c.

The End of VOL. I.